



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Washington State Department of Printing**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Department of Printing Director George Morton to Retire**

OLYMPIA—George Morton, Director of the Department of Printing, announced he will retire on September 30 after 28 years of state service.

Morton joined the Department of Printing as an entry-level general worker in 1976. After completing his apprenticeship, he became a journey level pressman and later served as a copy center journeyman. He then rose through the administrative ranks, became customer service representative, purchasing officer and customer service manager before being named Copy Center Manager. In March 1998, Morton was appointed as Public Printer after a nationwide search.

During his time as director, Morton has led the Department of Printing (PRT) through sweeping changes in printing technology and customer demand. Under his direction, inefficient equipment was replaced with high-speed digital machinery and processes were streamlined as the agency worked to improve quality and save agency and taxpayer dollars. As a result, the Department of Printing was ranked first in productivity among in-house printers in the United States by *In-Plant Graphics* magazine in 2001 and 2002, surpassing plants operated by several Fortune 500 companies.

As the Internet became increasingly important to state operations, Morton spearheaded agency efforts to create and implement online services to allow customers to place orders from any computer at any time of day. These Internet applications were the first of their kind in the country to be operated by a state printing office, and won the Governor's Award for Service and Quality Improvement in October 2000.

"As I reflect on the past twenty-eight years at the Department of Printing, I am honored to have worked with so many talented, dedicated and gifted people," said Morton. "They have set a new standard for printing and customer service that has gained both state and national attention. To have the opportunity to work with such true professionals and to serve the state of Washington has been a wonderful and gratifying experience. I expect to see even greater accomplishments from the Department of Printing's employees in the future as they continue to find ways to exceed customer expectations."

Governor Gary Locke has appointed Larry Weber as interim director of the Department of Printing beginning October 1, 2003.

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